

Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday*

November 24, 2009

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE

Puyallup

NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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By Larry Gibbs

Five of us went to Dad's Lake up in northeast Washington. We had a blast. Talk about relaxing. I would recommend this trip to any group of 5 or 6 people. The brothers who run 3LakesFlyFishing have a nice set-up there.

I have more Five Rivers tickets available, this is a great chance to win a fabulous trip to the rivers in the southwest corner of Montana. See me if you want to buy some. Want to go 50-50 with me on six tickets? Let me know.

Our October meeting was about our status as a club. If you were not at the meeting and would like some information about that meeting and issue, please feel free to give me a call.

The December meeting will be, as usual, a week earlier than normal. We don't want a meeting too close to Christmas. So, we will see you on Tuesday, Dec. 15th at the Puerto Vallarta. Bring some items to raffle off, it is our only fund raiser.

I think in January we will have a guest speaker. Bill Aubrey will come up with a good choice for our entertainment. If anyone has a suggestion or a favorite they would like to see, let Bill know.

The Bellevue fly fishing show will not take place in February 2010. But, fear not, we still have some great events to attend this coming year. March 12 & 13th in Albany, Oregon will be the NW Fly Tyers Expo. A few of us head down there each year. It is a very good show with lots of classes to take and tyers to sit across from and silent auction/raffle items to win.

Then there is my all time favorite (yes, I am biased). On April 30 and May 1 we are having the third annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. This is brought to you by the WA State Council FFF. There are a number of fly clubs that help out at this event but more volunteers are always welcome. I am the Auction Coordinator for the WSCFFF and I have a good group of fly fishers helping me each year, some of them are AFF members, the others are PSF members.

The Washington Sportsman's Show will be held in Puyallup again this January. While it is a bit weak on fly fishing related events, there are some. I will be staffing the WSCFFF booth again this year. The main function for this booth is for some of our CCI's to offer free casting instructions and tips. Come see us.

The November presentation will be a power point show about the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho.

Good fishing.



Larry

Five Rivers Sweepstakes Continues

By Larry Gibbs

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been EXTENDED! You still have a chance to win a trip to Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT and a chance at the grand prize - a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile.

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been extended due to economic conditions.

The drawing will be held on March 15, 2010. Tickets must be postmarked by February 28th, 2010 to be eligible.

Please support the FFF's ongoing efforts in conservation and education by purchasing a ticket.

To purchase tickets and for more information on the Sweepstakes

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5030>

Phil Greenlee

F.F.F. - Chairman of the Board

See Larry Gibbs to purchase some tickets.

FFF President's Message

What does the Federation of Fly Fishers do for me?

"We, in conclave assembled, out of a firm and abiding conviction that fly fishing as a way of angling gives to its followers the finest form of outdoor recreation and natural understanding, do hereby join in common effort in order to maintain and further fly fishing as a sport, and, through it, promote and conserve angling resources, inspire its angling literature, advance its fellowship, and broaden the understanding of all anglers in the spirit of true sport" - Preamble to the Bylaws of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Written by Lee Wulff, June 1965

The Federation of Fly fishers is supported by the four corners of Conservation, Education, Fly Tying and Casting. All of these elements make up the Federation but your participation as a member sustains who we are. The strength of the Federation comes from the various clubs and regional councils. The national office is the glue that binds us together.

The Federation of Fly Fishers is a way of life that teaches our members to become good stewards of our fisheries. I have watched over the years, people who become members of an FFF club will transform, becoming better anglers and better humans with their participation. As a few examples, a conservation chairman with an obligation to make a call on the Department of Fish and Game now becomes a person who starts to feel pride that he or she can make a difference. Or a member who helps with a youth program is asked to help teach a casting class, now becomes an instructor with more self esteem and pride in helping teach youth how to cast. I was part of a club that annually co-sponsored a fishing day on a lake for disabled children with the local Lyon's club. We were recognized by the local newspaper. This recognition helped us feel that we had made a difference. I want to be with people who make a difference and this is why I am a part of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

For some, the FFF is an opportunity of a lifetime. So you ask the question what the Federation does for me? By belonging to an FFF club, you are provided with a lot of opportunities to grow as a person, develop leadership skills, feel better about yourself, sustain family values, engage in conservation, learn about entomology, improve your casting or fly tying skills, make friends for life, serve your community, teach our youth, give yourself a direction in life and become a better fly fisher. Remember, the FFF is the only international organization that is strictly about fly fishing with all of the various components. We value you as a member. We're in this together. The real question is not what the FFF is doing for you, but what are we accomplishing together.

Philip Greenlee

Chairman/President

FFF Fly of the Month The Soft-Hackle

Partridge & Orange

FFF Fly Of the Month —November, 2000

The Soft-Hackle: An old fly, re-invented again and again

By Jim Abbs

Students of history find that brand new ideas are really quite rare. Rather, many new developments are just new additions to old ideas or just old ideas re-cycled. Fly patterns are no exception. Moreover, when certain fly pattern styles turn up again and again, it generally means that the look or the behavior of a group of insects is being especially well-imitated. Perhaps there has been no idea in fly pattern design as enduring as the soft hackle wet fly.

Consider the history of this favorite fly of many modern trout anglers, the soft hackle nymph. In the last decade, Sylvester Nemes published a book called *The Soft Hackled Addict* (1993). However, this book was an outgrowth of an earlier book (1975) by Mr. Nemes entitled simply, *The Soft Hackled Fly*. Mr. Nemes' first book on soft hackles offered a review of the tying of soft hackle flies and their history. According to some sources, Nemes was influenced by Paul Young of Michigan who sold hackled (not winged) nymphs, based upon patterns from a James Leisenring of Pennsylvania. In addition, just a few years before Nemes' book (in 1971), Vernon Hidy worked with that legendary James Leisenring to write yet another book entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*. This book, also focused on so-called "Soft-hackle nymphs". Hidy's book however was a revised version of a yet earlier book by James Leisenring alone, entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly*. So where did Leisenring get his ideas? Leisenring was a student of the English fly tyers and most students of fly pattern history believe that these flies originated in the Border Counties of Britain, in the regions between Northern England and Scotland, maybe as long as 500 years ago.

Obviously while this history is interesting to many, the key question may be why are these simple patterns are so enduring and effective. Basically, Leisenring and his predecessors recognized that trout like to feed on insects that are in the transition stage from nymph form to adult form, sometimes called emergers. These insect forms do not have wings, leading to the idea of a wet fly without wings, but with legs fully apparent. If these legs are imitated by soft hackle, they move in a natural, enticing way, capturing the quivering natural pattern that makes this fly so effective. There are many specific patterns that belong to the soft-hackle family. The oldest are flies like the Partridge and Green or Partridge and Orange, with other colors used to imitate different species of insects. Other popular flies of the soft-hackle style include *The Breadcrust*, *Carey Special*, *Tup's Indispensable*, *Starling Herl*, and others. These kinds of flies are thought by some to imitate caddis emergers (Dave Hughes), but other authors report using them very successfully in the early stages of mayfly hatches (Gary Borger). No matter what insects the soft-hackle patterns are supposed to imitate, they are found in the fly boxes of many expert trout anglers. Obviously, soft hackles, because of the their universal appeal also represent very good searching patterns when there are no hatches.

The most famous soft hackle flies include patterns that long have been popular in England, including the Partridge and Orange, Partridge and Green and Partridge and Yellow. These fly names refer simply to hackle (partridge) and to the color of the body. The other appeal to soft hackle nymphs is that they are not only deadly, but very easy to tie.

MATERIALS

Hook: Sizes 10-18, Mustad 9671, Tiemco 200, 5262

Thread: Color to match body color

Body: Floss or fur in olive, green, orange, yellow or brown

Thorax: Optional fur dubbing

Legs: Soft fibered feathers from a gray or brown partridge, grouse, hen



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TYING STEPS for the Soft Hackle

1. Lay down a layer of thread back 1/3 the distance from the eye to the end of the hook. Tie in floss (about 5-7 strands, depending on thickness of body desired) and wrap forward to tie in point. Carry out similar construction with dubbing with body extending from bend of the hook to tie in point.
2. Add thorax, extending over first third of floss body. If the body is constructed from dubbing rather than floss, the thorax can simply be an increased concentration of dubbing in from the tie in point back 1/3 the distance toward the bend of the hook.
3. Select a large feather with fibers that extend in length from just beyond the eye to the bend of the hook. Some of the soft-hackle flies use shorter or longer fibers, depending upon what you find most effective. A standard soft-hackle would extend about one-half the distance from the back end of the body to the bend.
4. Fold the fibers from the two sides of the quill so both are at right angles to that quill. Pull off those fibers from the quill (another option is to leave the fibers on the quill) with a quantity necessary to give the desired density of hackle.
5. Lay the fibers on one side of the hook and begin to tie them down, slowly distributing the fibers around the hook at the same time. The key to this "distribution wrap" is to keep the tension on the thread fairly low. Apply a second wrap to secure the fibers, pushing the fibers so they are as evenly distributed as possible. Stroke the fibers back toward the hook bend after each thread wrap.
6. Clip the butt ends of the fibers, whip finish and apply head cement. Go fishing

Book Review

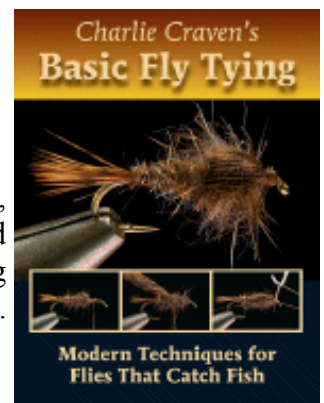
By Larry Gibbs

Charlie Craven's Basic Fly Tying

by Craven, Charlie

Charlie Craven's Basic Fly Tying is a modern course in fly-tying fundamentals, covering the tools, materials, and techniques to tie a wide range of popular flies and their variations. The series of lessons shows how flies build on one another, enabling readers to tie a wide range of patterns simply by breaking them down into parts. Charlie Craven's book is sure to become a standard text for basic fly tying.

This book comes highly recommended by Bob Jacobs.



Did you Know?.....

I was standing in line today at a local Fred Meyer and the customer in front of me asked for a hunting license, deer tag and elk tag. The clerk asked him if he had gotten an elk last year and he said no. She then told him that the State was imposing a \$10 surcharge to his license for this year because he had not mailed in his Elk punch card. She told him that hunters were being charged that fee this year.

Then she said that next year everyone who bought fishing licenses that included any kind of punch card, catch record, etc. and failed to mail it in as they were instructed to do so would also be charged this \$10 fee.

So, remember to mail in your cards even if you didn't catch anything.

Larry

Quote Of The Month



The indications which tell your dry-fly angler when to strike are clear and unmistakable, but those which bid a wet-fly man raise his rod-point and draw in the steel are frequently so subtle, so evanescent and impalpable to the senses, that, when the bending rod assures him that he has divined aright, he feels an ecstasy as though he had performed a miracle each time.

G. E. M. Skues Minor Tactics Of The Chalk-Stream (1910)



November / December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
November 1	2	3	4 Fly Tying	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Club Meeting	25	26	27	28
29	30	December 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Fly Tying	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Club Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Key Dates In The Future

November 4 — Fly Tying Session

November 24 — Club Meeting

December 8 — Fly Tying Session

December 15 — Club Meeting

January 11 — Fly Tying Session

January 26 — Club Meeting

NW Fly Tyers Expo, Albany, Oregon March 12 & 13, 2019

Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, WA April 30 & May 1, 2010

NOTICE:

Our New Mailing Address

Alpine Fly Fishers
PO Box 1103
Milton, WA 98354

If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org.

Club Officers:

President:	Larry Gibbs	253-863-4910
Vice President:	Bruce Everett	253-278-0164
Treasurer:	Duffy Christy	253-568-7965
Secretary:	Howard Inks	253-881-1885
Ghilly:	Joe Fitzpatrick	253-405-7356
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